DRAFT Preliminary Assessment Petition

Region IX United States Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Division
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Under the authority of CERCLA Section 105 (d), as amended, the petitioner

(Name): Orange County Water District

(Address): 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708

(Telephone Number): (714) 378-3337

Hereby requests that Region IX conduct a preliminary assessment of the suspected release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant at the following location:

Location Description: The site is located at 800 South State College Boulevard in Fullerton, California and is referred to as the Alcoa Site. The site is located in an industrial area approximately 0.6 miles north of Highway 91 and 0.6 miles west of Highway 57. The site is east of South State College Boulevard and north of Kimberly Avenue and is approximately 14 acres. Figure 1 is a site vicinity map.

Petitioner is affected by the release because: The groundwater basin that underlies the northern and central portions of Orange County is the source of potable water for more than 20 cities and water agencies that serve more than 2.3 million Orange County residents. Groundwater beneath the northern portion of the Orange County Groundwater Basin (referred to herein as North Basin) has been impacted by Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) at concentrations exceeding drinking water standards. Through its enabling legislation, Orange County Water District (OCWD) is responsible for managing groundwater supplies, including water quality, within the entire Groundwater Basin. To date, four water supply wells in the North Basin area have been closed due to VOC contamination, and approximately 10 additional water supply wells are threatened. The impacted areas are associated with chemical releases at multiple long-term industrial sites in the area. Historic operations at the Alcoa Site included manufacturing of fasteners for the aerospace industry. Site investigations have been conducted at the site since 1996. Available soil, soil vapor, and groundwater data collected during these investigations suggest that this site may be a significant contributor to the North Basin groundwater contamination.

Type or characteristics of the substances involved: Results of the investigations have identified VOCs, metals, and petroleum hydrocarbons in the shallow soil and soil vapor. The *Former Degreasing Area #1* and the *Plating Area #1* have been identified as areas of concern (Figure 2).

PCE and TCE have been detected in soil samples collected at the site between 1996 and 2008. PCE, TCE, and 1,1-DCE have been detected in soil vapor samples collected between 2007 and 2013.

VOCs have been detected in the four groundwater monitoring wells at the site, as shown on Figure 2. Groundwater is monitored and reported semi-annually. Data collected in October 2013

indicate the presence of trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethene (c-1,2-DCE) and 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE) in groundwater at the site.

Nature and history of any activities that have occurred regarding the release: The site consists of a 208,000-square foot building on 14 acres. The site has been used primarily for the manufacture of various aircraft fasteners, beginning in 1962 or 1963 and continuing to the present. The major processes performed at the site included machining, cleaning, electroplating, heat treatment, lubricating, wastewater treatment and storage. Product cleaning involved the use of solvents and a degreaser. The electroplating process used nickel, copper, silver, cadmium, and chromium baths. A wastewater treatment system, clarifier and scrap storage area were located outside of the building.

Ongoing remediation at the site includes operation of a soil vapor extraction system (SVE) that consists of seven vapor extraction wells installed at two locations. This system has been in operation since 2009 and to date has removed more than 14,000 pounds of VOCs. The SVE system is installed to a depth of 55 feet and it will not effectively remove VOCs from depths greater than 55 feet. However, TCE has been detected at significant concentrations in soils deeper than 55 feet, and it is likely that contamination of the underlying groundwater has occurred. Therefore, the existing soil remediation system is not adequate to prevent VOCs from continuing to impact groundwater.

State and local authorities you have contacted about the release and the response, if any: On the Regional Water Quality Control Board's website (Geotracker), the status of this site is identified as "Open – Remediation as of 5/6/2009". The Regional Board has required that the SVE system and groundwater monitoring well network be monitored and reported semi-annually. Over the past year, OCWD has discussed its concerns regarding this site, and several other sites, in meetings with the Regional Board and Department of Toxic Substances Control.